

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Uri Adler et al.
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/816,847 ART UNIT: 2854
FILING DATE: April 5, 2004 EXAMINER: FERGUSON, Marissa L.
TITLE: SYSTEM, APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR WIDE FORMAT
PRINTING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Declaration Under 37CFR 1.132

Sir:

In reference to the above subject application please note the following information known to me personally.

1. The subject invention provide a wide format electrophotographic printing system comprising a plurality of sub-units smaller than the wide format image to be printed. An electrophotographic printing system is a contact printing systems, which uses electrostatic charges, dry ink (toner) and light. A selenium-coated, or an equivalent OPC photoconductive drum, is positively charged. Using a laser or LEDs, a negative of the image is beamed onto the drum, canceling the charge and leaving a positively charged replica of the original image. A negatively charged toner is attracted to the positive image on the drum. The toner is then attracted to the paper, or other substrate, which is also positively charged. The final stage is fusing, which uses heat and pressure, pressure alone or light to cause the toner to permanently adhere to the paper, or other substrate.

2. It is well known that an OPC drum extends lengthwise greater than the printing area. That is to say, the OPC drum is in contact with the paper or other substrate over both the printing area and margins on either side of the effective printing area.

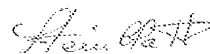
2. An important challenge in the development of the invention was that of the problem of overlap. In particular, as described above, the charged photoconductive drum prints an area less than the length of the drum, as illustrated in Fig. 3 of the subject application. In order to ensure that the entire width of the substrate is printed upon, a plurality of sub-units or drums each of which prints an image less than the desired wide image is utilized. A certain amount of overlap will therefore exist, the overlap at least comprising the area

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that was printed by the first drum (say printing subunit #1) and which the non-printing portion of the subsequent drum (say printing subunit #2) contacts. The contact of a charged drum on a newly printed surface was a cause for concern and an important design factor in setting the appropriate corona voltages.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Serge Steinblatt

April 3, 2006
Date